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Message of the Governor of Montana

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Governor's Message

EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

289 54

Extraordinary Session, May 26, 1903

Executive Office, Helena, Montana.

May 26, 1903.

To the Eighth Legislative Assembly in Extraordinary Session:

At your last regular session I called attention to the forthcoming celebration, at St. Louis, Missouri, of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase by the United States, and recommended an appropriation sufficient to secure a creditable representation of this State and its varied resources on that occasion.

The suggestion met with a hearty response from the people of the State.

A bill was introduced in line with the recommendation so made, but for some reason failed to become a law.

Since your adjournment the subject has been thoroughly considered and discussed by the people and the press, and the almost unanimous opinion is that a State comprising such an important part of the Louisiana Purchase as Montana does, should not fail to be properly represented.

In deference to this strong public sentiment, and to this end I appointed an honorary Commission to solicit private subscriptions and arrange for the collection and exhibition of our resources at the Exposition.

At that time this seemed to be the only possible plan at our command.

It soon developed, however, that this method would entail considerable expenditure of time and money on the part of the Commission which was acting without compensation, and that after all, nothing

short of an appropriation out of the public treasury would be adequately responsive to the popular demand.

I have, therefore, upon the request of a majority of both houses of your honorable body and obedient to the expressed wishes of a large constituency, deemed it prudent and proper to convene the Eighth Legislative Assembly in extraordinary session to make suitable provision for our representation at St. Louis.

Since your adjournment it has been made manifest that the amount appropriated for the maintenance of the Capitol building and grounds is wholly inadequate.

The amount appropriated was Twelve Thousand Dollars for 1903 and Ten Thousand Dollars for 1904.

I append hereto a carefully prepared estimate from which it appears that the appropriation for 1903 is $7,290.99 short of the amount actually necessary to maintain the Capitol and grounds, while the amount appropriated for 1904 is short $9,290.99.

At your last session you appropriated for 1903		$12,000.00
Amount already expended	$ 6,972.74	
Salaries, April 1 to November 30, Head Janitor, $3.00 per day and $10.00 per month extra	812.00	
3 Janitors, 1 Night Watchman, 1 Laborer, 1 Elevator Man, 1 Telephone Operator, 1 Day Fireman, 2 Scrub Women; 10 persons@$3.00, $732.00 each	7,320.00	
Head Engineer, 8 mo.@$125.00	1,000.00	
Night Engineer, 244 days,@$3.50	854.00	
Total	$ 9,986.00	
From this total may be deducted the salary of the Day Fireman and the Night Engineer for the months of May, June, July and August, amounting to	804.50	
Total salaries to be added		$ 9,181.50
Which added to the amount already expended makes		$16,154.24
Deficiency		4,154.24

From this statement it will be seen that if no other charges are made against this appropriation except salaries of employees, the deficiency at the end of the year will amount to $4,154.24.

If to this is added the estimated expenses of the Building and Grounds according to the accompanying statement, amounting to

$3,136.75 the deficiency at the end of the year will amount to the sum of $7,290.99.

ESTIMATE

of charges against the appropriation for the maintenance of the Capitol Building for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1903.

Already expended		$ 6,972.74
Salaries of employees		$ 9,181.50
Coal	$750.00	
Water	750.00	
Light	650.00	
Lissner Water	40.00	
Ice	80.00	
Laundry	100.00	
Telephone	216.75	
Re-seeding Lawn, trees, etc.	150.00	
Repairs and Sundries	400.00	3,136.75
Total		$19,290.99
Appropriation		12,000.00
Deficiency (1903)		$ 7,290.99

The amount appropriated for 1904 was only $10,000.00, while the same fixed charges as the preceding year will necessarily be maintained. It will be observed that this will leave a deficiency for 1904 of $9,290.99, which does not take into account the purchase of trees, etc., which will probably cost, set, including digging holes and extra black earth, $2.50 a piece.

In my opinion $5,000 is a conservative estimate for this purpose.

RECAPITULATION.

Additional appropriation required for 1903	$ 7,290.99
Additional appropriation required for 1904	14,290.99

I desire to express my appreciation of the commendable public spirit which animated you in suggesting the propriety of this extraordinary session without expense to the state, and to advise you that the President of the United States, returning from a tour to the Pacific Coast, will be the guest of this State and the Capital City on tomorrow and that the ceremonies attending his welcome will be held at the north entrance of the Capitol.

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the same.

J. K. TOOLE, Governor.